

**House Study Bill 673 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON SMITH)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act providing for vision screenings for certain students,
- 2 and including applicability provisions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.39D Student vision screening.

2 1. a. School districts and accredited nonpublic schools  
3 shall provide vision screenings to all students entering  
4 kindergarten and grades one, three, six, and nine; transfer  
5 students; and students referred by a parent, guardian, or  
6 teacher for screening as provided in this section.

7 b. A school district or accredited nonpublic school shall  
8 provide a vision screening for a student beginning a school  
9 year in kindergarten within sixty days of the first day the  
10 student begins school.

11 c. A student is excused from the vision screening if a  
12 parent or guardian presents school officials with documentation  
13 of a student's comprehensive eye examination performed by a  
14 licensed ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist within the  
15 past twelve months. School officials shall retain a copy of  
16 the results of the student's eye examination.

17 2. a. School personnel shall retain each student's vision  
18 screening results and provide each student's parent or guardian  
19 with the results and any follow-up recommendations for vision  
20 correction or care as necessary.

21 b. The parent or guardian of a student who demonstrates  
22 during the vision screening specific visual problems, as  
23 identified by the department of public health, shall cause  
24 the student to undergo a comprehensive eye examination by a  
25 licensed ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist within six  
26 months and provide documentation of the examination to the  
27 appropriate school official.

28 c. If a parent or guardian fails to provide documentation  
29 that the required follow-up examination has occurred, school  
30 officials shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of the  
31 current student vision screening and examination requirements  
32 as established by law and also notify the department of public  
33 health.

34 d. School officials shall not prohibit a student from  
35 attending school due to the failure of a parent or guardian

1 to provide documentation of the student's comprehensive eye  
2 examination.

3 3. Area education agencies, pursuant to section 273.3,  
4 shall make every effort to provide, in collaboration with  
5 local community organizations, vision screening services to  
6 children ages two through four. The area education agencies  
7 and the organizations providing the vision screenings shall  
8 notify the parent or guardian of the child if a comprehensive  
9 eye examination by a licensed ophthalmologist or licensed  
10 optometrist is recommended.

11 4. a. A licensed ophthalmologist, licensed optometrist,  
12 licensed physician, or certified vision screener shall conduct  
13 vision screenings required by this section. A certified  
14 vision screener is an individual trained in vision screening  
15 techniques within the past three years and certified by  
16 the department of public health. The department of public  
17 health, in cooperation with the department of education, shall  
18 establish vision screening training standards.

19 b. The department of public health shall approve vision  
20 screening techniques and protocols recommended by a nationally  
21 recognized organization such as the American academy of  
22 pediatrics, the American academy of ophthalmology, or the  
23 national eye institute.

24 5. The department of public health, in cooperation with the  
25 department of education, shall adopt rules to administer this  
26 section. The department of public health shall submit a report  
27 to the general assembly by January 1, annually, regarding  
28 student vision screenings results for the most recently  
29 completed school year. The first report, due January 1, 2013,  
30 shall include an assessment by the department about whether a  
31 source of financial assistance for parents and guardians would  
32 increase compliance with required follow-up comprehensive eye  
33 examinations.

34 Sec. 2. Section 280.7A, Code 2009, is repealed June 30,  
35 2011.



1 failure of a parent or guardian to provide documentation of a  
2 required eye exam.

3 Area education agencies, in collaboration with community  
4 organizations, shall provide vision screening services to  
5 children ages two through four.

6 Licensed medical personnel or certified vision screeners  
7 must provide the vision screenings. Vision screenings shall  
8 be provided using techniques and protocols approved by DPH,  
9 as established by nationally recognized organizations with  
10 expertise in vision screening.

11 DPH, in cooperation with the department of education, is  
12 required to adopt rules regarding the requirements of this new  
13 Code section. DPH shall submit an annual report to the general  
14 assembly by January 1, regarding the vision screening results.  
15 The first report is due January 1, 2013. The report shall  
16 include an assessment about compliance with required follow-up  
17 eye exams and whether financial assistance would increase  
18 compliance.

19 Code section 280.7A, which is the current statute about  
20 student eye care, is repealed June 30, 2011. The current law  
21 provides that a parent or guardian receive a student vision  
22 card when a child registers for preschool or kindergarten with  
23 the goal of every child receiving an eye exam by age seven.  
24 Current law also provides that school districts may encourage  
25 the receipt of eye exams by students receiving special  
26 education services.

27 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
28 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
29 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
30 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
31 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
32 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
33 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
34 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
35 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state

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1 mandates included in the bill.

2 The bill applies to school years beginning on or after July

3 1, 2011.